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News From Chuck Lesnick Yonkers City Council President

March 6, 2009

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The Reval Meeting is on Again!



With last week's snowstorm behind us, Councilwoman Joan Gronowski and I have rescheduled our second Q&A workshop/public education meeting on reassessment to create fair property taxes from 6 - 8 p.m. on Monday, March 30 at the Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers.

The meeting will be broadcast on Channel 78 and will run periodically throughout the week.

The March 30 workshop will be facilitated by the NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS), and the Yonkers Tax Assessor's office.

Please note that you may bring your tax bill to the meeting if you

have questions or concerns and Assessor Mark Russell will do his best to accommodate you, as well as look up your property's vitals on the Intranet.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Photo cap: Chuck listens to a resident speak the first reval meeting last month.

Yonkers 54th St. Patrick's Day Parade is Sunday



Yonkers annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday, March 8 starting on S. Broadway and Radford Street to the reviewing stand at Hudson and South Broadway and ending at Chicken Island.

But that's not all.

There's an 11 a.m. raising of the Irish & American flags at City Hall Plaza ceremony and a Noon Mass at St. Mary's Church on South Broadway.

The city thanks Grand Marshall Richard Fitzgerald of Sound Associates in Yonkers for leading the festivities and everything he does in support of Yonkers.

The downtown party continues when the parade finishes so come on down to Main Street and enjoy the festivities at the Tyrone House, Patty J's, Belle Havana, Zuppa Restaurant & Lounge, and others.

Check out the business directory at www.yonkersdowntown.com.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

NYU Review of Law and Social Change Panel Discussion

I was invited back to speak on a panel tonight at NYU Law School (from 6 - 8 p.m.) to celebrate 40 years of the Review of Law and Social Change (RLSC) where I was Colloquium Editor in 1984-85, and organized an RLSC colloquium entitled "Litigating and Legislating for Affordable Housing."

The early 80's were an interesting time in the area of Affordable Housing. Ronald Reagan was President and he was cutting the budget at HUD which trickled down to cuts in New York City before it had a chance to come out



of the fiscal crisis from the 1970's. We had the largest influx of homelessness since the great depression and there were still large vacant parcels of land that had been abandoned in Harlem, the Lower East Side and the boroughs.

In retrospect, it would have been a great time to buy property --although the New York real estate market peaked in 1988. Then it dropped during the first Bush years and came back strong during the Clinton administration.

But at the RLSC we were not thinking about making money. We were thinking about providing housing for the homeless, inclusionary zoning, protecting tenant's rights and desegregating housing.

I will discuss litigating and legislating for affordable housing -- 25 years later-- along with editors from other eras who will address the general topic "From Page to Practice."

If I don't see you there, I will report back in a future e-blast.

First Lady Michelle Paterson Kicks Off Healthy Steps Campaign

Yonkers will kick off Michelle Paterson's state-wide healthy student initiative from 3-5 p.m. on Monday, March 9 at the Riverfront Library.

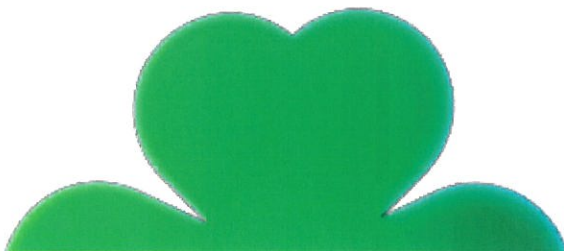
The "Healthy Steps" campaign encourages physical activity for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades and also to make nutrition a part of their lives.

It's a six-week program that calls for classroom teams to log their activities on line and track their collective steps on a map that highlights fun facts about New York State. Top teams in the state will win a luncheon hosted by the Governor and First Lady, a trip to a local organic farm and other prizes. The top team in Yonkers will win a picnic lunch with me and my wife, Dr. Beth Schorr Lesnick.



The First Lady was at the Mark Twain School last month to introduce the program to Yonkers in February.

Irish Dance Performance at Beczak



The Christine Murray School of Irish Dance will perform at the Beczak Environmental Education Center at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 14.

The dance presentation is part of "Going Green for St. Patrick's Day," a hands-on nature program for kids

ages 5 - 12. Admission is \$5.

The event includes an exploration of the lucky superstitions of the Hudson River Valley and making a "green" craft with Beczak's naturalists.

This program will be offered again at 1:30 p.m. on March 14 without the special appearance by The Christine Murray School of Irish Dance.

To register, contact Dorene Sukup at DSukup@Beczak.org or call (914) 377- 1900 ext. 13.

Theater Production in Yonkers

The Actors Conservatory Theatre of Yonkers presents its Jr. Troupe production of H O N K !, a world-wide stage sensation that has been seen by millions.

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling," this play tells the story of an odd looking baby duck named Ugly and his quest to find his mother.

Show Dates:

Friday, 3/20/09, 8.00 p.m.

Saturday, 3/21, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 3/22 @ 2:00 p.m.

For additional information, e-mail ACTShows2@aol.com or call (914) 391-6558. Actors Conservatory Theatre, 20 Buckingham Road, Yonkers.



Edited by Laura Fahrenthold

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